

IN THE CLAIMS:

Amend the claims as follows.

1. (Original) A nucleic acid construct, characterized in that it comprises an isolated nucleic acid in the sense position, capable of encoding an immunogenic protein of promastigote forms or of amastigote forms of *Leishmania*, said nucleic acid corresponding to one of the sequences SEQ ID No 1, SEQ ID No 2, SEQ ID No 3, SEQ ID No 4, SEQ ID No 5 and SEQ ID No 11.

2. (Original) The construct as claimed in claim 1, characterized in that the sequence comprises a *Sall* restriction site and two *HindIII* restriction sites, with a stop codon located downstream of the first *HindIII* site.

3. (Original) The construct as claimed in claim 2, characterized in that said nucleic acid sequence comprises an *EcoRV* and/or *PstI* restriction site between the two sites *Sall* and *HindIII*, or on either side of the *Sall* site.

4. (Currently Amended) The construct as claimed in ~~any one of claims 1 to 3~~ claim 1, characterized in that said nucleic acid sequence is cloned in the sense position into a plasmid such as pTex.

5. (Currently Amended) The construct as claimed in ~~any one of claims 1 to 4~~ claim 1, characterized in that it encodes an immunogenic protein of promastigote forms or of amastigote forms of *Leishmania*, these proteins corresponding to one of the sequences SEQ ID No 6, SEQ ID No 7, SEQ ID No 8, SEQ ID No 9, SEQ ID No 10 and SEQ ID No 12.

6. (Original) An isolated immunogenic protein, characterized in that it has a sequence chosen from SEQ ID No 6, SEQ ID No 7, SEQ ID No 8, SEQ ID No 9, SEQ ID No 10 or SEQ ID No 12.

7. (Currently Amended) A genetically modified *Leishmania* strain, characterized in that it corresponds to *Leishmania* amastigote or promastigote forms transfected with a construct as claimed in ~~any one of claims 1 to 5~~ claim 1.

8. (Original) The strain as claimed in claim 7, characterized in that it is an *L. infantum* strain.

9. (Currently Amended) A method of transfecting a *Leishmania* parasite, characterized in that a construct as claimed in ~~any one of claims 1 to 5~~ claim 1, comprising a marker, is introduced into the *Leishmania* parasite, the transfected parasites are selected by means of said marker, they are placed in culture in a completely defined axenic and serum-free medium, and the culture supernatant which contains the immunogenic proteins present in concentrations of the order of 10 to 20 times higher than that produced by the *Leishmania* mother strain is recovered.